

Appln. No. 10/609,427

Amendment dated October 26, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed August 23, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Original) A deck covering apparatus for covering a portion of a deck of a structure, the deck covering apparatus comprising:

a pair of support assemblies each having a base portion and a rail member, said base portion being adapted for coupling to a support structure, said rail member being coupled to said base portion such that said base portion of each of said support assemblies is adapted for supporting said rail member of an associated one of said support assemblies in a spaced relationship above the deck; and

at least one panel assembly slidably coupling to said rail member of each of said support assemblies such that said panel assembly is positioned between said support assemblies, said panel assembly being slidably positionable along a length of said rail member of each of said support assemblies such that said panel assembly is adapted for covering a portion of the deck from the elements.

2. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

said panel assembly having frame member, said frame member providing structural support for said panel assembly, said frame member having a pair of side portions and a pair of end portions.

3. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 2, further comprising:

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said panel assembly having a plurality of roller members, each of said roller members being coupled to one of said side portions of said frame member such that each of said roller member engages said rail member of one of said support assemblies, each of said roller members being for facilitating sliding of said panel assembly along said support assemblies.

4. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 3, further comprising:

each of said roller members having a wheel and an axle, said axle of each of said roller members being couple to one of said side portions of said frame member, said wheel being rotatably coupled to a free end of said axle of the associated one of said roller members such that said wheel is adapted for rotationally engaging said rail member of one of said supporting members for facilitating positioning of the associated one of said panel assemblies.

5. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:

said panel assembly having a plurality of sleeve members, each of said sleeve members being positioned in one of said side portions of said frame member, each of said sleeve members receiving said axle of one of said roller members, each of said sleeve members being for inhibiting said axle of the associated one of said roller members from wearing on the associated one of said side portions of said frame member.

6. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein each of said sleeve portions of said panel assembly is positioned at an acute angle to a bottom face of the associated one of said side portions of said frame member for more evenly distributing a weight of said panel assembly over a length of said axle of each of said roller members.

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7. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 2, further comprising:

said panel assembly having a cover member, said cover member being coupled to said frame member such that said frame member is for supporting said cover member, said cover member being adapted for directing the elements off of a portion of the deck covered by said panel assembly.

8. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

said cover member of said panel assembly having an overhang, said overhang extending from one of said side portions of said frame member such that said overhang of said cover member is adapted for being positioned opposite the building for directing rain away from the deck.

9. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of panel assemblies each being slidably coupling to said rail member of each of said support assemblies such that each of said panel assemblies is positioned between said support assemblies, each of said panel assemblies being slidably positionable along a length of said rail member of each of said support assemblies such that each of said panel assemblies are adapted for covering a portion of the deck from the elements.

10. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 9, further comprising:

each of said panel assemblies having frame member, said frame member providing structural support for said panel assembly, said frame member of each of said panel assemblies having a pair of side portions and a pair of end portions.

11. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further comprising:

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each of said panel assemblies having a plurality of roller members, each of said roller members being coupled to one of said side portions of said frame member such that each of said roller members engages said rail member of one of said support assemblies, each of said roller members being for facilitating sliding of an associated one of said panel assemblies along said support assemblies.

12. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 11, further comprising:

each of said roller members having a wheel and an axle, said axle of each of said roller members being couple to one of said side portions of said frame member, said wheel being rotatably coupled to a free end of said axle of the associated one of said roller members such that said wheel is adapted for rotationally engaging said rail member of one of said supporting members for facilitating positioning of said panel assembly.

13. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 12, further comprising:

said panel assembly having a plurality of sleeve members, each of said sleeve members being positioned in one of said side portions of said frame member of one of said panel assemblies, each of said sleeve members receiving said axle of one of said roller members, each of said sleeve members being for inhibiting said axle of the associated one of said roller members from wearing on the associated one of said side portions of said frame member.

14. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein each of said sleeve portions of each of said panel assemblies is positioned at an acute angle to a bottom face of the associated one of said side portions of said frame member for more evenly distributing a weight of the associated one of said panel assemblies over a length of said axle of each of said roller members.

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15. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further comprising:

each of said panel assemblies having a cover member, said cover member being coupled to said frame member of the associated one of said panel members such that said frame member is for supporting said cover member, said cover member being adapted for directing the elements off of a portion of the deck covered by said panel assembly.

16. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 15, further comprising:

said cover member of each of said panel assemblies having an overhang, said overhang extending from one of said side portions of said frame member such that said overhang of said cover member is adapted for being positioned opposite the building for directing rain away from the deck.

17. (Original) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 15, further comprising:

said cover member of each of said panel assemblies having an extension portion, said extension portion extending from one of said edge portions of said frame member of the associated one of said panel assemblies, said extension portion of said cover member being for extending over said cover member of an adjacent one of said panel assemblies for preventing rain from entering between said panel assemblies when said panel assemblies are positioned adjacent to each other.

18. (Original) A deck covering apparatus for covering a portion of a deck of a structure, the deck covering apparatus comprising:

a pair of support assemblies each having a base portion and a rail member, said base portion being adapted for coupling to a support structure,

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said rail member being coupled to said base portion such that said base portion of each of said support assemblies is adapted for supporting said rail member of an associated one of said support assemblies in a spaced relationship above the deck;

a plurality of panel assemblies each being slidably coupling to said rail member of each of said support assemblies such that each of said panel assemblies is positioned between said support assemblies, each of said panel assemblies being slidably positionable along a length of said rail member of each of said support assemblies such that each of said panel assemblies are adapted for covering a portion of the deck from the elements;

each of said panel assemblies having frame member, said frame member providing structural support for said panel assembly, said frame member of each of said panel assemblies having a pair of side portions and a pair of end portions;

each of said panel assemblies having a plurality of roller members, each of said roller members being coupled to one of said side portions of said frame member such that each of said roller members engages said rail member of one of said support assemblies, each of said roller members being for facilitating sliding of an associated one of said panel assemblies along said support assemblies;

each of said roller members having a wheel and an axle, said axle of each of said roller members being couple to one of said side portions of said frame member, said wheel being rotatably coupled to a free end of said axle of the associated one of said roller members such that said wheel is adapted for rotationally engaging said rail member of one of said supporting members for facilitating positioning of said panel assembly;

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said panel assembly having a plurality of sleeve members, each of said sleeve members being positioned in one of said side portions of said frame member of one of said panel assemblies, each of said sleeve members receiving said axle of one of said roller members, each of said sleeve members being for inhibiting said axle of the associated one of said roller members from wearing on the associated one of said side portions of said frame member;

each of said sleeve portions of each of said panel assemblies being positioned at an acute angle to a bottom face of the associated one of said side portions of said frame member for more evenly distributing a weight of the associated one of said panel assemblies over a length of said axle of each of said roller members;

each of said panel assemblies having a cover member, said cover member being coupled to said frame member of the associated one of said panel members such that said frame member is for supporting said cover member, said cover member being adapted for directing the elements off of a portion of the deck covered by said panel assembly;

said cover member of each of said panel assemblies having an overhang, said overhang extending from one of said side portions of said frame member such that said overhang of said cover member is adapted for being positioned opposite the building for directing rain away from the deck; and

said cover member of each of said panel assemblies having an extension portion, said extension portion extending from one of said edge portions of said frame member of the associated one of said panel assemblies, said extension portion of said cover member being for extending over said cover member of an adjacent one of said panel assemblies for

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preventing rain from entering between said panel assemblies when said panel assemblies are positioned adjacent to each other.

**New Claims:**

19. (New) A deck covering apparatus for covering a portion of a deck of a structure, the deck covering apparatus comprising:

a pair of support assemblies each having a base portion and a rail member, said base portion being adapted for coupling to a support structure, said rail member being coupled to said base portion such that said base portion of each of said support assemblies is adapted for supporting said rail member of an associated one of said support assemblies in a spaced relationship above the deck; and

a plurality of panel assemblies each being slidably coupling to said rail member of each of said support assemblies such that each of said panel assemblies is positioned between said support assemblies, each of said panel assemblies being slidably positionable along a length of said rail member of each of said support assemblies such that each of said panel assemblies are adapted for covering a portion of the deck from the elements.

20. (New) The deck covering apparatus as set forth in claim 19, further comprising:

each of said panel assemblies having frame member, said frame member providing structural support for said panel assembly, said frame member of each of said panel assemblies having a pair of side portions and a pair of end portions.